



Robertson News

April 2014

Volume 9
Issue 8

Principal: Mr. Wolf
Secretary: Mrs. Hegenauer

ROBERTSON NEWS

APRIL 2014

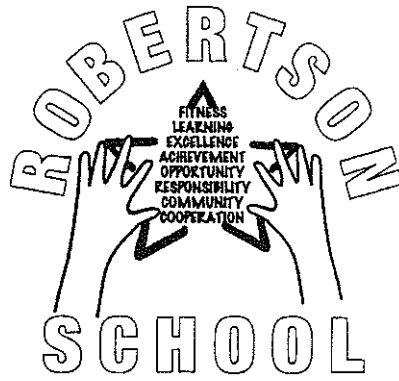
MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Thank you to all of the parents, guardians, and grandparents that came to school for your children's March report card conferences. As you know, when you participate in your child's education, students are more likely to perform to their fullest potential. Being present for report card conferences is one great way to participate! It shows your children that you care about their school performance and that you want to work as a partner with the school to help your child. Conferences offer both you and your child's teacher a chance to exchange information and to plan strategies for helping your child. Even when children are doing well academically and socially, it is important for you to participate in report card conferences because this shows them that their hard work and accomplishments are being recognized!

Regular and on-time attendance at school is an essential ingredient to academic success. At Robertson, we continue to make a strong effort to have all of our students improve their attendance. We have discovered some patterns of students missing school frequently and/or being late to school (tardy) frequently. We will continue to communicate with parents when students show a pattern of frequent absences and/or frequent tardiness. If there is any way that we can help you to ensure that your child attends school regularly and/or gets here on time, please contact our School Social Worker, Mrs. Beverly Prager, at 860-647-3372.

Reminder: Snow storms have caused school to be cancelled for a total of 5 days this school year. These days will be made-up on Friday, June 13 (A-day); Monday, June 16 (B-day); Tuesday, June 17 (D-day); Wednesday, June 18 (D-day) and Thursday, June 19 E-day).

Stuart Wolf
Principal



STUART WOLF, Principal
Phone (860) 647-3372
Fax (860) 647-6378

65 NORTH SCHOOL STREET • MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT 06042

Dear Parents/Guardians,

There has been an increase in school illness at Robertson. The district protocol supports that children who have fever, diarrhea or vomiting should remain at home for 24 hours. If your child is symptom free after 24 hours and does not need over the counter medication, he/she can return to school.

If we all abide by this protocol, it will help control the spread of illness at our school. Our custodians and staff are rigorous in cleaning classroom surfaces in addition to opening windows to circulate fresh air when children are out of the room.

Please refer to the Sick Children Guidelines for Parents. As always, feel free to phone me with any questions you have regarding your child's health at 860 647-3373.

Thank you,

Dorothy Dorr
School Nurse



MANCHESTER SCHOOLS SICK CHILDREN...send or stay home? Guidelines for Parents

Deciding when a child is too sick to go to school can be a difficult decision for parents to make. When trying to decide, use the guidelines below and seek the advice of your health care provider.

If your child has a temperature of 100.4 he/she must stay home. Your child cannot return to school until the fever has been gone for at least 24 hours.

COLDS: Your child must stay home if he/she has a thick, colored discharge from the nose or has a wheezing, croupy cough. For more severe symptoms, your child must remain at home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone and the appetite returns to normal.

STREP THROAT: Your child may return to school when the temperature is normal for at least 24 hours and the child has taken antibiotics for at least 24 hours. All severe sore throats and swollen glands should be evaluated by a health care provider.

RASH: Your child should stay home and be evaluated by a health care provider for any unknown rashes.

IMPETIGO: Your child may return to school only after using prescribed medication for at least 24 hours. Infected areas must be covered when child returns. The child may not return to school with open, oozing sores.

VOMITING/DIARRHEA: Your child may not return to school until there is no fever or vomiting/diarrhea for at least 24 hours and has tolerated at least two normal meals.

In the event that your child does not have a fever but they are exhibiting negative changes in behavior, temperament, or classroom performance due to various health concerns (i.e. fatigue, colds, excessive coughing, constipation, etc.) you may be called to pick up your child.

Please consider the health of your child and the other children in the class and follow these guidelines before sending your child back to school. You will be called by the school nurse to come and pick up your child from school in the event that these guidelines are not met.

Please keep these guidelines handy in order to determine when your child can come back to school after being ill.

Thank you

Jump Start Kindergarten

The Alliance Grant that Manchester received is enabling the town to offer Jump Start Kindergarten; a summer program for children entering kindergarten who have never attended preschool. This exciting program will prepare students for formal schooling in a 6 week, half-day summer program. The focus of the program is to provide students with orientation to school and staff and become accustomed to school routines. Curricular focus will include: literacy, numeracy, handwriting and social behavioral skills. The program is free and is open to a select number of students. Children will be selected for the program through a lottery system and application can be found on the Manchester Public Schools website. For more information, please call 860-647-3483.

Big Y Express Savings Club - Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Big Y Express Savings Club this year. We were able to earn 569,400 total points for our school by simply registering your Big Y card with our school code and buying your weekly groceries! Because of you, we were able to receive the following items for **FREE!!**

- 6 playground balls
- 10 headphone sets
- 2 digital cameras
- Miscellaneous school supplies!

Thank you Robertson Families!



APRIL LIBRARY NEWS

The PTA sponsored book fair was held during March. Everyone enjoyed book browsing and selecting and the PTA's goal of putting one book in the hand of each Robertson child was once again achieved. In addition to raising money for the PTA many books were added to classrooms and the library. Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped out.

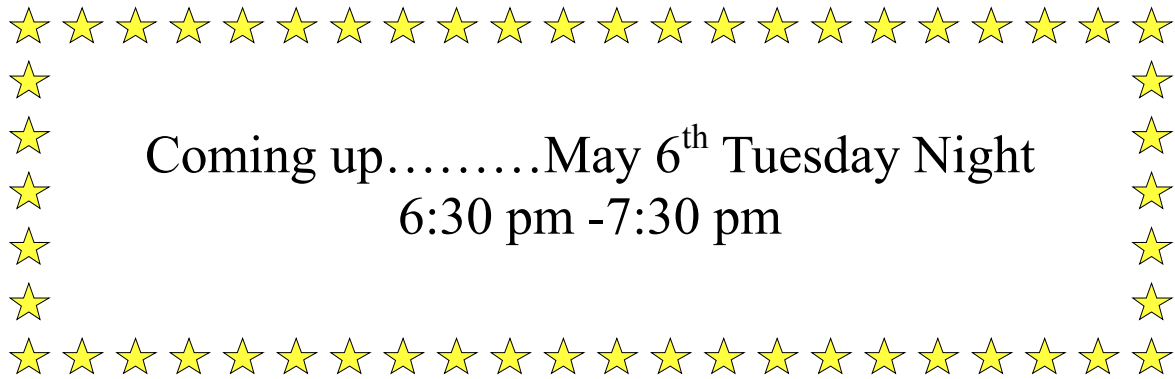
April is National Poetry Month! Poetry books of various kinds will be displayed around the library. Library lessons will be focused on exposing children to poetry in its many forms from popular music to classic poetry and everything in between!

If you have not visited the Robertson School website recently please check it out. The address is: <http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/page.cfm?p=714>.

From the website you can access the K-8 Resource page (under the Resources tab) which has links to our school library catalog and many sites that are used by your students.



Robertson School Art Show!!!!



Coming up.....May 6th Tuesday Night
6:30 pm -7:30 pm

Kindergarten classes have been making patterns with flowers and castles. They will be making origami tulips soon.

1st Graders are learning about the Aztec Culture by making calendar sundials. They will be using geometric shapes and patterns related to their math curriculum.

2nd Graders made origami puppets, picture frames, and swans with their families. They are now sketching their friends' action poses keeping proportion in mind.

3rd Graders finished their guitars. Now they are working on a line, shape, and movement collage.

4th Graders did an outstanding job on their 3-D cone shaded drawings!!! They are now working on patterned leaves using scratchboard.

5th Graders finished their texture activity. Now they are using line, pattern, and color to make their 3-D hand drawing.

See you at the Robertson Art Show Tuesday May
6th in the Gym!!

Physical Education News

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART AT ROBERTSON A SUCCESS!

During February 10-12, students at Robertson did their part in the battle against heart disease and stroke by participating in Jump Rope for Heart. 108 students raised \$2001 for the American Heart Association! Last year the total was \$438.

Donations from Jump Rope for Heart help fund research to fight heart disease and stroke and also support the American Heart Association's public and professional education programs.

"I am incredibly proud of the Robertson School family. We had a lot of fun!" said Mr. Coughlin, Robertson PE Teacher.

Christina Collazo was Robertson's top earner with a total of \$290. Her brother Nick added \$50 for a total of \$340 raised by the Collazo family! Jump Rope for Heart is a program that promotes physical fitness and heart health through the fun activities involved with jumping. It is co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Mr. Coughlin plans to conduct Hoops for Heart in February 2015.



Happy April Music Families!

Our 5th Grade Orchestra, Band and Select Chorus members will be performing at the Town wide Concerts at Manchester High School this month. All performances begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Please feel free to stop by Manchester High School on April 8th for the Orchestra, April 9th for the Band, and April 10th for the Chorus. All students involved have been practicing weekly and will sound wonderful! Another treat each night will be the opportunity to hear the older music groups performing. These should be three musically exciting nights. I hope to see you all there!

Miss Grieco



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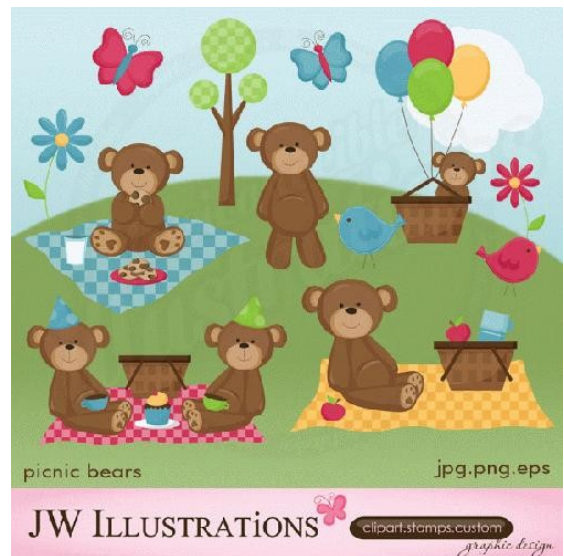


Fun Run and Family Picnic

The Robertson School Fun Run and Family Picnic will be held Saturday May 17th at Northwest Park in Manchester. The race begins at 10:30 a.m. Please arrive early to check in. This race is open to all Robertson students in grades K-5. The picnic will begin after all runners have finished. The race is free! Registration forms will be sent home in early April. **A parent must be present while their child is at the event.** All efforts will be made to complete the event Rain or Shine! Should the race be postponed, an announcement will be posted on the Robertson PE website (<http://schoolnotes.com/06040/robertsonpe.html>) by 8:00 a.m. the day of the race. Mr. Coughlin needs volunteers to watch along the course for safety. If you would like to help, please contact Mr. Coughlin via phone or email, or arrive early to the race to see him.



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Kindergarten Express

April 2014

Language Arts

Kindergarten continues to enjoy their shared reading time with stories like "Oh No!" and The Gingerbread Man". We will be combining fictional stories about penguins with non-fiction books on penguins from our science unit. We continue to work on the author's message, retelling, concepts of print, and reading with expression.

In our small group guided reading lessons, the students are working on reading books at their level and retelling the stories with specific details. The children also use strategies such as sounding out, blending, and using picture clues to figure out unknown words.

Can your child make a connection to the story after you have read it to them or they have read it independently? Ask your child, "Does this story remind you of something in your life or another book you have read?"

Science

Students are getting ready to dig into Living and Non-Living in our next science unit. Students will learn about penguins while completing a research project. The children are always excited when they get to plant seeds and keep track of their growth in a journal. What's the best thing about it? The kids get to take home their experiments!

Growing and Moving With Math

The kindergarten students are continuing to work on addition and subtraction. Students have learned strategies to solve problems such as counting up or backwards, using our fingers, using a number line, or drawing a picture. Please continue to practice so the number facts 0-5 become fluent.

Students are also using their knowledge of addition and subtraction to solve word problems. Some examples include: "The tree has 9 apples. Four fell off. How many are left?" Or "The girl has 5 pieces of chalk. Her friend gave her five more. How many does she have altogether?"

Have fun with your child making up story problems as you play outside or are driving in the car!

The next unit of study in math will be 2D and 3D shapes!

Upcoming Events

PTA Meetings- April 23rd, May 21st

Early Dismissal Days: 4/2 and 5/14
No School- 4/14-4/18

-We all want to thank all the parent(s) and guardian(s) that came to the parent-teacher conferences. It was great that we were able to meet with most of you regarding your child's progress in school!

First Grade News

We enjoyed meeting with you and discussing your child's progress during parent conferences. This is a wonderful year of learning for your child. The help and support you have given are making a big difference.

In Reading/Language Arts we are focusing on applying the comprehension skills learned. This includes questioning and inferring, to determine what's important in understanding the big idea in the story, in order to summarize and synthesize. Using the comprehension strategies as tools for investigating and researching topics, students will then summarize and synthesize topics of their choice and create books that demonstrate their learning and understanding.

Math lessons include addition and subtraction facts within 20, doubling numbers, and using strategies to add and counting back to subtract. We are also solving problems that involve money, comparing and ordering two-digit numbers and rounding numbers to the nearest multiple of ten.

April 22nd is Earth Day. Therefore, during the month of April we will learn about the Earth and the importance of everyone taking care of it. We will complete some projects revolving around earth day, and we will also learn about rainforests!

Finally, we are very excited to report that we received Butterfly Kits! First graders will be witnessing firsthand the wonder of the butterfly life cycle with our own butterfly habitats. We will watch and record the caterpillar's transition as it grows and changes into a chrysalis, and finally emerges as a butterfly!

Enjoy your April vacation!



Second Grade News

April is National Poetry Month. In Writing, the students will be writing poems. They will learn how to use line breaks to emphasize words and phrases in their poems, and how to use feelings, metaphors, word choice, repetition and rhythm in their poems.



Students will also continue to learn about informational writing. In reading, they will re-search a topic to find important information that they would like to report on and share with the class.

In math, students will continue to work on counting coins and combinations. Students will learn the value of coins and how to skip count and count on to determine the value of a group of coins. They will also use coins to make one dollar. The students will be using equivalent coins to show money amounts in different ways and exchanging pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters.



In the upcoming weeks, math will focus on geometry concepts and how to identify the different attributes of shapes. Students will be able to:

Describe, identify, create, sort and build with shapes (squares, triangles, circles, rectangles etc.)

- Identify a variety of geometric shapes in everyday structures
- Compare and sort 2- and 3- dimensional shapes (3-D terms include sphere, prism cones etc.)

- Extend and make patterns with shapes

- Determine lines of symmetry, flips, slides, turns and transformations of shapes

Describe locations on a grid (e.g., up four and over two, etc.)

In Science, we are finishing our Matter Unit. As students explore the properties of solids and liquids, they continue to learn about the scientific method. They ask questions, make hypotheses and write lab reports to describe their procedures, results, and conclusions. Soon, we will begin a unit on Soils. Students will examine soil samples using the scientific method.

Third Grade Newsletter - Read all about it!

Science

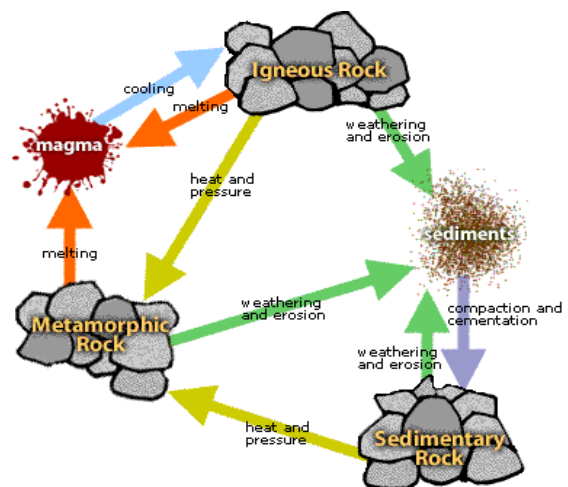
Third Graders enjoy science! They are observing, predicting, and analyzing during science. Currently, they are learning about Rocks and Minerals. Here is what some third graders wanted to share about their learning...

Every third grader went in Mrs. Case's class for Science to do an experiment. This is an experiment about igneous rock. We made Igneous Fudge! We showed that the minerals in igneous rock are quartz, feldspar, and mica using food. We used butter to act like feldspar, marshmallows to be like quartz; chocolate chips to represent mica and m & m's to be the birthstones. To make igneous fudge you start with a heated crock-pot as a hot volcano. Then, you put in butter and wait until it melts. Then you put in marshmallows and stir it until it melts. Next you pour in chocolate chips and keep stirring until they melt. Finally, you pour it out in a pan, which is like the magma erupting, shooting out of the volcano to become lava. You put m & m's in. Let it cool like what happens on the earth's surface. Now you have igneous rocks!

By: Sumitra

In science we are learning about rocks and mineral properties. We performed property tests including Color, Luster, Hardness, Streak, Texture, and Fracture/Cleavage. We studied each mineral to find out the color. We looked at all the sides to identify the color it mostly was. For luster we had to decide if the rock was shiny, dull, or glassy. For hardness, if you can't scratch it with your fingernail you write "more." If you can scratch you write "less." The next test was streak. We had to take the tile streak plate and scratch it. We wrote down the color that it showed. The next test was texture. We used our fingers to feel if it was smooth, rough, or greasy. The last test was fracture and cleavage. We looked down at the top surface of the rock. If it looks rough and bumpy write fracture and if it looks mostly flat and smooth we wrote cleavage.

By Judith



Third Grade continued

Mathematics

In math I have been learning about elapsed time, area, and perimeter. One example of an elapsed time problem is:

Juliana baked cookies. She started at 2:15 p.m. If she took them out at 3:00 p.m., how long did she bake the cookies for?

To find perimeter, we learned to add up all of the shapes sides. For example if you had a shape with sides that were $3m + 3m + 4m + 4m = 14m$ would be the perimeter when added. To find area using the same shape you would multiply the length and width. For example: $4m \times 3m = 12$ square meters.

~ By: Trayona

In math I have learned how to multiply 2-digit by 2-digit numbers in different ways. For example, one way is called the box method, lattice method, and then we all know the “usual” way called the logarithmic method. We also learned what area and perimeter are. Area is the amount of space a shape takes up and perimeter is the distance around a shape. The formula for area is width \times length and the formula for perimeter is width + width + length + length = perimeter. Math is a lot of fun! I hope you enjoy it as much as I do!

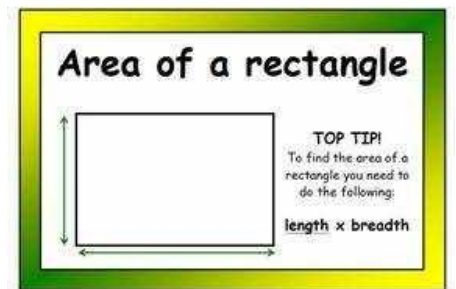
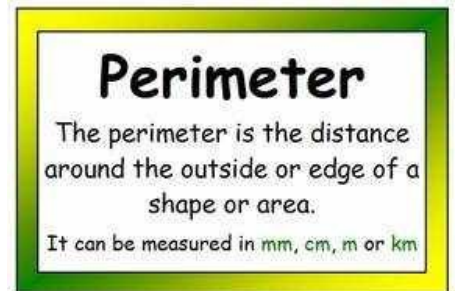
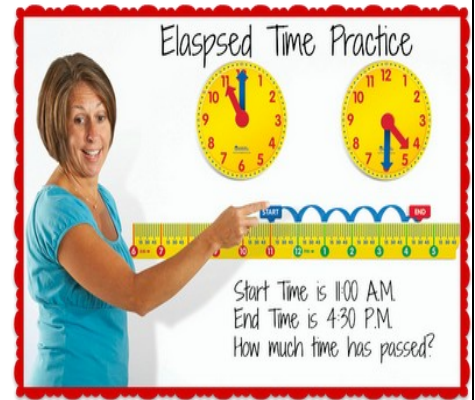
~ By: Saarah

READING REPORT

We have been working on determining the theme of texts we read, but will also continue working on summarizing the text as well. When good readers summarize, they tell just the important parts of the story.

Third graders sometimes confuse summarizing with retelling. A retelling is like telling the story over again, without the text. A good reminder to help in not being so wordy in a summary is to use these guide words:

- *Somebody (insert main character's name)
- *Wanted (what the main character was looking to do)
- *But (the problem in the story)
- *So (how main character tried to solve the problem)
- *Then (another way they tried to solve their problem or how it was solved)
- *Finally (how the story ends)



Fourth Grade News

Dear Families,

Fourth graders have begun taking the SBAC testing. We are all so proud of how hard they are working and the amount of effort they have put in! We couldn't have done this without your support at home as well!

In reading we have finished our nonfiction unit. We were studying different text structures and learning how to defend our thinking. Students researched an endangered animal that is found in the United States and created a report utilizing internet researching skills. Check out their videos at <http://endangeredanimalslinks.weebly.com/>

In math we have moved on from fractions and are reviewing decimals. Students should be able to read and write decimals up to the hundredths place! Adding and subtracting money is a great way to practice. Please remember to keep practicing basic facts as all fourth graders are expected to answer 100 problems in 5 minutes! This will also help students to easily grasp these new, more challenging topics as they are taught.

In science we are wrapping up electricity and will be starting our land and water unit. The fourth graders are excited to get down and dirty! Thanks to the Connecticut Science Center, students have already had the chance to investigate erosion and measure run off.

In social studies we completed our unit of The Underground Railroad. There were several thought provoking conversations about slavery, freedom, and equality. Students have learned about the hardships, joys, and sorrow that define slavery. Students have created freedom quilts, poems, and letters that explain what made up the Underground Railroad. We will now be back on track exploring the Southeast and Midwest regions of the United States.

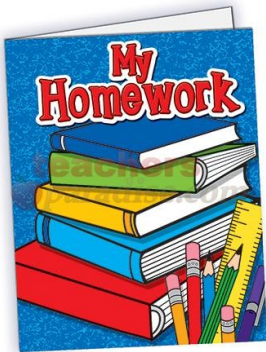
Fifth Grade Newsletter

LANGUAGE ARTS - Last month, we delved into the historical fiction genre. The classes read the following books: The Cabin Faced West, Sarah, Plain and Tall, and Number the Stars. There were a lot of lively discussions about the struggles the different characters faced and the courage they had to muster to overcome their problems. Our book report project was a PowerPoint presentation of the books the students read. They were very creative and detailed presentations, complete with animation and even music! Book Talks/Clubs are also underway. Students have been enjoying these books with their groups. They may read together or assign themselves a chapter every night, take notes and come prepared to discuss what they read with their groups the following day. It is refreshing to see the students get engaged in meaningful conversations about their books!

SOCIAL STUDIES -This month, we learned about groups of colonists who ventured and explored unknown lands. We learned about the variety of reasons for their movements. Some groups were merchants and wanted more profit, some groups wanted to bring honor and expand their King's power and some were seeking religious freedom. During the months of April and May we will be studying about the struggle for America's independence. We'll get familiar with The Boston Tea Party, The American Revolution, The Declaration of Independence and secret lives of spies! There will be some reenactments of these memorable moments of history in class—ask your child about them as the months go on.

MATH - We continue our study of fractions this month. We have been working on multiplying and dividing fractions, with reducing to simplest form and converting improper fractions to missed numbers. We are also applying these operations to everyday problem solving situations. When might you need to multiply fractions? Did you ever need to double a recipe because more people are coming over for dinner? Have no fear, your fifth grader is capable of solving this problem for you!

SPECIAL NOTES: Thank you to all parents/guardians who attended conferences this month! HOMEWORK IS STILL BEING GIVEN! Please be sure to check your child's assignments each night and be sure that they are completing their work. We still have 3 more months of school and our expectations remain high.



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MANCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

Manchester Public Schools is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. Manchester Public Schools does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, access to boy scouts or other designated youth groups, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal non-discrimination laws. Manchester Public Schools does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Inquiries regarding Manchester Public School's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to:

Terri Smith, Human Resources Specialist/Title IX Coordinator
Manchester Public Schools
45 North School Street
Manchester, CT 06042
860-647-3595

Shelly Matfess, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services
Section 504 Co-Coordinator
Manchester Public Schools
45 North School Street
Manchester, CT 06042
860-647-3452

or
Suzanne Valade, Coordinator of School Health Services
Section 504 Co-Coordinator
Manchester Public Schools
45 North School Street
Manchester, CT 06042
860-647-3324

The school district's policy of nondiscrimination must be prominently included in all handbooks, bulletin, catalog, booklet, announcement, brochure, student/employee application form or other publication distributed to students, potential students, parents, and any other persons benefiting from the school district's activities and programs. The name and contact information (office address, telephone number, fax number, email address) of the Title IX Coordinator must also be included in this announcement.

Title IX Notice
Policy #4013

It is the policy of the Manchester Public Schools to maintain a working environment free from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, insults or intimidation on the basis of an employee's sex or inclusion in a protected class. Verbal or physical conduct by a supervisor or co-worker related to an employee's sex, which has the effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment, unreasonably interfering with the employee's work performance, or adversely affecting the employee's employment opportunities, is prohibited. The school district will provide staff development for new district administrators and will publish its policy and grievance procedures to employees in an effort to maintain an environment free of sex discrimination and sexual harassment.

Title IX is a federal law which states: "No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance."

Manchester's Title IX coordinator is:

Terri Smith
Manchester Public Schools
45 North School Street
Manchester, CT 06042
Phone: 860-647-3595
Fax: 860-647-3327

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for monitoring the overall implementation of Title IX for the school district and coordinating the institution's compliance with Title IX in all areas covered by implementing regulations. The major responsibility is the prevention of sexual harassment and discrimination.